

## AMENDMENTS

### IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 11 and 12, amend Claims 9, 13-14 and 16, and add new Claim 23, as follows:

1. (Previously Amended). A vehicle comprising:  
a vehicle frame having at least one vertically-oriented side frame member;  
a transmission housing directly mounted to a vertical face of the at least one vertically-oriented side frame member;  
a hydrostatic transmission mounted in the transmission housing and comprising a hydraulic pump and hydraulic motor connected through a hydraulic circuit;  
and  
an axle shaft driven by the hydraulic motor and extending perpendicular to the at least one vertically-oriented side frame member;  
wherein the axle shaft extends through the at least one vertically-oriented side frame member.
2. (Previously Amended). A vehicle as recited in Claim 1, further comprising two vertically-oriented side frame members, wherein the transmission housing is secured to one of the vertically-oriented side frame members.

3. (Previously Amended). A vehicle as recited in Claim 1, wherein the transmission housing is secured to the at least one vertically-oriented side frame member by at least one bracket.

4. (Previously Amended). A vehicle as recited in Claim 1, wherein the transmission housing comprises at least one boss for securing the transmission housing to the at least one vertically-oriented side frame member.

5. (Previously Amended). A vehicle as recited in Claim 1, further comprising a control arm engaged to the hydrostatic transmission and located between the transmission housing and the at least one vertically-oriented side frame member.

6. (Original). The vehicle as recited in Claim 1, further comprising a combustion engine for driving the hydraulic motor and a snow throwing auger driven by the combustion engine.

7. (Original). The vehicle as recited in Claim 1, further comprising a center section having porting, a pump running surface on which the hydraulic pump rotates and a motor running surface on which the hydraulic motor rotates.

8. (Original). The vehicle as recited in Claim 7, further comprising a motor shaft driven by the hydraulic motor, wherein the motor shaft has a longitudinal axis that is parallel to the longitudinal axis of the axle shaft.

9. (Currently Amended). A vehicle comprising:

- a vehicle frame having at least one vertically-oriented side frame member;
- a transmission housing directly mounted to a vertical face of the at least one vertically-oriented side frame member;
- an integrated hydrostatic transmission mounted in the transmission housing and comprising a hydraulic pump and a control mechanism for controlling the output of the hydraulic pump; ~~and~~
- ~~a control arm having a first portion located inside the transmission housing and engaged to the control mechanism and a second portion located between the transmission housing and the at least one vertically-oriented side frame member~~
- a hydraulic motor mounted in the transmission housing and in fluid communication with the hydraulic pump;
- an axle shaft mounted in and extending from the transmission housing,  
the axle shaft being driven by the hydraulic motor and removably carried within the housing; and
- a sleeve piece carried by the transmission housing, the sleeve piece being driven by the hydraulic motor and releasably accepting and driving the axle shaft.

10. (Previously Amended). A vehicle as recited in Claim 9, wherein the control mechanism comprises a rotatable swash plate.

11-12. (Cancelled).

13. (Currently Amended). The vehicle as recited in Claim ~~42~~ 10, wherein the at least one vertically-oriented side frame member has an opening for accepting the axle shaft.

14. (Currently Amended). The vehicle as recited in Claim ~~41~~ 10, further comprising a center section having porting wherein the hydraulic pump and hydraulic motor are mounted to the center section and are in fluid communication via the porting.

15. (Previously Amended). The vehicle as recited in Claim 14, wherein the center section has a pump running surface on which the hydraulic pump rotates and a motor running surface on which the hydraulic motor rotates, wherein the pump running surface is in a vertical plane oriented perpendicular to the at least one vertically-oriented side frame member and the motor running surface is in a horizontal plane.

16. (Currently Amended). The vehicle as recited in Claim ~~41~~ 10, further comprising a motor shaft driven by the hydraulic motor, a reduction gear driven by the motor shaft, and a bull gear driven by the reduction gear and drivingly linked to the axle shaft.

17. (Original). The vehicle as recited in Claim 16, wherein the motor shaft has a longitudinal axis that is parallel to the longitudinal axis of the axle shaft.

18. (Previously Amended). The vehicle as recited in Claim 9, further comprising a combustion engine for driving the integrated hydrostatic transmission and a snow throwing auger driven by the combustion engine.

19. (Original). A vehicle comprising:

- a vehicle frame;
- a hydrostatic transmission mounted to the vehicle frame and driven by a transmission input shaft having an attached transmission pulley;
- an engine mounted to the vehicle frame and driving an output shaft having at least one output pulley;
- a belt connecting the output pulley to the transmission pulley; and
- a cooling fan mounted on the transmission input shaft, where the transmission input shaft extends through a loop created by the belt, whereby the cooling fan and transmission are on opposite sides of the belt.

20. (Previously Amended). A vehicle as recited in Claim 19, further comprising a hydraulic motor mounted in the transmission housing and in fluid communication with the hydraulic pump and an axle shaft mounted in and extending from the transmission housing, wherein the axle shaft is driven by the hydraulic motor.

21. (Original). The vehicle as recited in Claim 20, further comprising a center section having porting wherein the hydraulic pump and hydraulic motor are mounted to the center section and are in fluid communication via the porting.

22. (Original). The vehicle as recited in Claim 20, further comprising a motor shaft driven by the hydraulic motor, a reduction gear driven by the motor shaft, and a bull gear driven by the reduction gear and drivingly linked to the axle shaft.

23. (New). The vehicle as recited in Claim 9, further comprising a control arm having a first portion located inside the transmission housing and engaged to the control mechanism.